

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A method in the kernel of an operating system comprising:
  - receiving in the kernel of an operating system at least one request regarding at least one designated device of a plurality of devices from at least one application program;
  - communicating the at least one request from the kernel of the operating system to the at least one designated device via a well known communication protocol;
  - communicating an asynchronous event information from the at least one designated device to the kernel of the operating system; and  
~~receiving in the kernel of the operating system information from the at least one designated device; and~~
  - forwarding the asynchronous event information from the kernel of the operating system to the application program that sent the request.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one designated device comprises a remote device accessible via a network.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the at least one designated device comprises a local device.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one request comprises at least one of a status request and a control request.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the communications protocol is the user datagram protocol (UDP).
  6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving the request is achieved via at least one socket.
  7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
    - receiving in the kernel of the operation system a subscription request from an application program regarding at least one of the plurality of devices;
    - receiving in the kernel of the operation system an event corresponding to the subscription request from one of the plurality of devices; and
    - forwarding the event corresponding to the subscription request information from the kernel of the operating system to the application program that sent the subscription request regarding the device.
  8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein forwarding the asynchronous event information is achieved via a socket.
- 9 - 14. (Canceled)
15. (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium having stored thereon instructions which when executed by a processor cause a machine to perform operations comprising:
    - receiving in the kernel of an operating system at least one request regarding at least one designated device of a plurality of devices from at least one application program;

communicating the at least one request from the kernel of the operating system to the at least one designated device via a well known communication protocol;

receiving in the kernel of the operating system an asynchronous event information from the at least one designated device; and

forwarding the asynchronous event information from the kernel of the operating system to the application program that sent the request.

16. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 15 wherein the at least one designated device comprises a remote device accessible via a network.

17. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 15 wherein the at least one designated device comprises a local device.

18. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 15 wherein the at least one request comprises at least one of a status request and a control request.

19. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 15 wherein the communications protocol is the user datagram protocol/internet protocol (UDP/IP).

20. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 15 wherein receiving the request is achieved via at least one socket.

21. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 15, wherein the instructions cause the machine to perform operations further comprising:

receiving in the kernel of the operating system a subscription request from an application program regarding at least one of the plurality of devices;

communicating an asynchronous event information from the at least one designated device to the kernel of the operating system; and

~~receiving in the kernel of the operating system information from the at least one designated device; and~~

forwarding the event corresponding to the subscription request information from the kernel of the operating system to the application program that sent the subscription request regarding the device.

22. (Currently Amended) The machine readable medium of claim 15 wherein forwarding the asynchronous event information is achieved via a socket.

23. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 15 wherein the operating system is the Linux operating system.